



The Lincoln Kinsman

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THE TENNESSEE LINCOLNS

FAMILIES OF ISAAC, HANANIAH AND MORDECAI, SON OF JOHN

There are many traditions extant which relate to various members of the Lincoln family who lived in Tennessee about the beginning of the nineteenth century. There were three distinct Lincoln groups, all related, who migrated from Pennsylvania and Virginia and eventually located in Tennessee. The heads of these families were Isaac, Hananiah, and Mordecai, son of John. Isaac and Hananiah were first cousins, and Mordecai was a nephew of Isaac.

ISAAC

In his autobiographical sketch prepared for Scripp in 1860, Abraham Lincoln states that before his father, Thomas Lincoln, was grown "he passed one year as a hired hand with his Uncle Isaac on Watauga, a branch of Holston River."

President Lincoln wrote to David Lincoln a letter dated April 2, 1848 in which he said, "I am quite sure that Isaac resided on the Watauga River near a point where Tennessee,

and Virginia join and that he has been dead more than twenty perhaps thirty years."

Isaac Lincoln was probably the first member of the Lincoln family to settle in the territory which later became the state of Tennessee. He was a brother of Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the President. He was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania on March 5, 1750, and he migrated with his parents to Virginia about 1765.

When the paternal home tract in Augusta County, Virginia was divided in 1773, Isaac received his portion next to his brother Abraham. At that time, although but twenty-three years of age, he is noted on the record books of Augusta County as a constable, and he retained this position until May 18 of that year.

It is evident that he immediately set out for the western country, probably encouraged by his relative, Daniel Boone, and possibly by his

older brother, Abraham. We know that he reached the Watauga River country as early as March 1775, as he became associated in some way with the Richard Henderson Company which issued to him this warrant:

“We promise to pay to Isaac Linkholm or order by the first day of June next the full sum of four pounds two shillings and six pence Virginia currency for value received under our hands this 15th of March 1775.

“For Richard Henderson & Co.

“Nathaniel Hart

“Charles Robeson”

The warrant was issued for services rendered by the treaty of Watauga, when the Henderson Company purchased the land lying between the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers from the Cherokee Indians.

Returning to Virginia in 1779 Isaac sold his property there on May 21 and that same month entered land in what was then North Carolina. His patent called for 265 acres in Washington County. It was not until August 16, 1787, however, that this tract of land was finally located. Several other pieces of property came into his hands and his estate soon covered 1500 acres.

After reaching the Watauga country and establishing his home there, Isaac married Mary Ward. There was but one child, a boy, who died at about three years of age. The name of the child is not known. It is said that the child started to follow his father to the sugar orchard, evidently became lost, and was never seen thereafter. Many years later,

some distance from the home, the bones of a child about three years of age were found in a cave. There were no more children born to Isaac and Mary Lincoln, so with the tragic death of this child the Isaac Lincoln branch of the Lincoln family was terminated.

It was to this uncle Isaac that Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, went to visit about the year 1800, and, according to the President, remained with him for some time. Economically speaking it was a bad move for Thomas Lincoln to have left this uncle who died without an heir, but it was well for the nation that Thomas again returned to Kentucky and married Nancy Hanks. Possibly this childhood playmate may have had somewhat to do with his return to Kentucky.

Isaac Lincoln passed away in 1816, and a copy of his will follows:

“In the name of God, Amen. I, Isaac Lincoln, of the County of Carter and State of Tennessee, being sick and weak of body, but of sound mind and disposing memory (for which I thank God) and calling to mind the uncertainty of human life, and being desirous to dispose of all such worldly substance as it has pleased God to bless me with, I give, devise, and bequeath the same in manner following, that is to say:

“1st. I desire that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid out of my perishable property, by my executrix hereinafter named.

“2ndly. After the payment of my debts and funeral expenses, I give, devise and bequeath to my wife, Mary

Lincoln, all my real and personal estate to dispose of as she may think proper.

“3rdly and lastly. I do hereby constitute and appoint my beloved wife, Mary Lincoln, my sole executrix of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all others or former wills or testaments, by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 22nd day of April in the Year of our Lord, 1816.

“Signed, Sealed, Published and Declared to be the last will and testament of the above named Isaac Lincoln, in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses to same.

“(Signed) Isaac Lincoln.

“George W. Carter.

“Godfrey Carriger.

“Daniel Stover.

“Christian Carriger.”

It is of interest to note that it was on the Isaac Lincoln farm that President Andrew Johnson died July 31, 1875. Here lived his daughter Mary who had married into the Stover family.

Isaac Lincoln is buried near a small station called Hunter about six miles from Elizabethtown, Tennessee. The inscription on the grave stone is as follows: “Sacred/ to the memory of / Isaac Lincoln/ who departed this life June 10/ 1816/ aged about 65 years.” The inscription on the tombstone marking the grave of his wife who is buried beside him reads: “Sacred/ to the memory of/ Mary Lincoln/ who departed this life August 27, 1834/ age about 76 years.”

When Mary Lincoln died in 1834, most of her property went to her nephew, William Stover. Some of the more important bequests appearing in the will are noted:

1. “To Campbell Crow, the lower plantation, it being the one on which he now lives.

2. “To Phoebe Crow, wife of Campbell Crow, my negro girl, Margaret and her four children, to wit, Lucy, Mina, Martin and Mahalla.

3. “To William Stover, the plantation on which I now live,..... bounded on the East and North by Watauga River.

4. “To William Stover, the following negroes, to wit, Patsy (a negro girl) and her two children, Cynthia and Landon; also negro woman, Jane and her two children Sam and Tom; also negro woman Mary and her six children, to wit, Elizabeth, Campbell, Margaret, Charlotte, Delphy and Bill; also Caesar and Lucy, to whom I desire the said William Stover to permit to remain during their lives on the plantation which I have hereinbefore bequeathed to him. It is my will that the said Stover, so long as the said Caesar and Lucy continue to live, shall clothe and support them. I also give and bequeath to the said William Stover, to wit, George, Phoebe, Eliza, children of Lucy, whom I wish the said William Stover to remain on the home plantation that they may take care of the aforesaid negroes, Caesar and Lucy during their lives.

“I also give and bequeath the following other negroes to the said William Stover, to wit, Esther, and her seven children, that is to say,

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SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN FORMER ISSUES
OF THE LINCOLN KINSMAN

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Lavisa, Violet, Juba, Lucinda, Mary, Lewis, and Phoeba. I also give and bequeath to the said William Stover, two other negroes, to wit, William and Isaac, children of Lucy.

5. "To Christian Carriger, Senior, the following negroes, to wit: Negro woman Letty and five of her children, to wit, Christy, Tennessee, Mordecai, Nathaniel, and also said Letty's youngest child.

6. "To Mary Lincoln Carriger, daughter of Christian Carriger, Senior, two negro girls, children of Letty, to wit, Sarah, Seraphina Ann.

"In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 27th day of April in the Year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty four.

her
 Mary X Lincoln (Seal)
 mark

"Signed, sealed and acknowledged
in the presence of

"Thos. A. R. Nelson

"A. M. Carter

"A. W. Taylor"

There are no descendants of Isaac Lincoln now living, so this line of the Tennessee Lincoln family was brought to a close with the passing of Isaac Lincoln's only son in infancy.

HANANIAH

Isaac and Hananiah Lincoln were the sons of two brothers, John and Thomas Lincoln respectively, who lived in Pennsylvania, and in this state, the cousins above-mentioned were born. Isaac was a brother and Thomas a cousin of Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the President.

Hananiah Lincoln was born, probably in 1756 though the exact date is not known, the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Davis Lincoln. Hananiah saw some military service in 1775 and, on October 4, 1776, he was commissioned a First Lieutenant in Colonel William Cooke's Twelfth Pennsylvania Regiment. Later he was promoted to a captaincy and was so ranked when he resigned on October 20, 1777.

He accompanied his cousin Abraham Lincoln to Kentucky in 1782 and became a resident of that state. He was closely associated with the grandfather of President Lincoln who was massacred by the Indians in 1786.

He witnessed a promissory note given in Kentucky as early as Janu-

ary 3, 1782. The following year he entered three tracts of land, one of 890 acres on Cartwrights Creek, another of 1000 acres on Beech Fork, and still another on the Kentucky River.

During the years 1784, 1785, and 1786 he was evidently making his home with the pioneer Abraham Lincoln in Jefferson County, Kentucky. After the massacre of his cousin, in fact by July 25, 1786, he moved to Nelson County. A Jefferson County fee book for 1787 contains this: "No inhabitant lives in Nelson."

In Nelson County on February 7, 1787 Hananiah married Sarah Jane Jeffries, daughter of Moses Jeffries. The first child born to them on December 22 of that year was named Moses for his grandfather. The following September Hananiah succeeded his father-in-law as captain of the militia in the first batallion of Nelson County.

In 1792 Hananiah became interested in the establishment of a community on Rough Creek called Hartford, now the county seat of Ohio County, and acquired property there. He remained only three years before selling out and moving to Elizabethtown, county seat of Hardin County which at that time embraced Ohio County.

As early as July 28, 1795 he was serving as a commissioner to view a road leading to Elizabethtown, and shortly after that he was appointed the appraiser of an estate. At this time he listed for taxation five tracts of land in Kentucky which totaled 4000 acres.

While living in Elizabethtown,

Kentucky there came to live with him his cousin Abraham's son Thomas, who was later to become father of the President. The residence of Hananiah at Elizabethtown was also a brief one and by 1798 he removed to Cumberland County, Kentucky where he became the first sheriff of the newly organized County.

Cumberland County is on the Tennessee line, and it is probable that Thomas Lincoln went with Hananiah at this time, and then extended his trip of exploration into the Watauga River country to visit his Uncle Isaac as previously mentioned. It would appear that Thomas Lincoln was moving about from place to place the next few years, and in 1802 he was made a constable in Cumberland County, and entered land there.

Hananiah lived on Meshack Creek in the Center Point section located in the present county of Monroe. At the time Hananiah migrated to Cumberland County his family consisted of his wife and at least six children, possibly more. The sons were Moses, Thomas, Austin, and Davis, and the daughters were Sarah and Lucy. Sarah Jeffries Lincoln must have passed away before 1801 as Hananiah married, on February 14, of that year, Lucy Wilson.

The two oldest sons, Moses and Thomas, each migrated to Ohio in 1816 and settled in Preble County. Before migrating Thomas married in Cumberland County, Kentucky, a daughter of Jesse Gee. After reaching Preble County, Moses married Elizabeth Crawford on September 18, 1816. She was a daughter of James and Martha Crawford of Eaton, Ohio. In 1831 Moses moved to Warren

County, Ohio where he died on September 19, 1866. His wife had passed away on the 24th of January of that year.

The children of Moses Lincoln were Sarah Jane, John Crawford, James Harvey, Martha Ellen, William Washington, David Shankland, Mary Ann, Lucinda Caroline, and Elizabeth Ruth.

Thomas Lincoln, brother of Moses, had a family of ten children. There were six boys, Hananiah, Jesse G., Moses, James, Thomas, and John, and four girls, Sarah, Elizabeth, Susie, and Martha.

In 1860 President Lincoln wrote a note to a relative which read, "I remember long ago, seeing Austin and Davis Lincoln, said to be sons of Hananiel or Annaniel Lincoln, who was said to have been a cousin of my grandfather."

Austin and Davis moved to Indiana, probably direct from the Tennessee home of their father Hananiah, and settled in 1815 about the same time that the other two brothers moved to Ohio. They preceded the family of Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, into Indiana by about a year and they were undoubtedly largely responsible for the migration of Lincoln's parents in 1816.

Austin Lincoln's first wife is said to have passed away in 1818. There was at least one child by this union named Lucinda who married John Montgomery. In 1820 Austin took for his second wife Livitia or "Levisy" Conner. James and Henry Lincoln were born to this union. Upon the death of Austin Lincoln, the widow Levisy married James Hargrave on June 21, 1828.

Davis Lincoln married Abigail Campbell in Tennessee before migrating to Indiana, and entered land in Spencer County not far from the Lincolns. He became a justice of the peace and a prominent citizen. The children of Davis and Abigail Lincoln were Hananiah, Austin, Robert J., Ellen, Nancy, Sarah, Amarintha, and Lucy.

Davis Lincoln is said to have died at Natchez, Mississippi or New Orleans while on a river trip to one of those points. His widow, Abigail, married Thomas Jones.

One of Hananiah Lincoln's daughters, Sarah, married George Peterman to whom three children were born: Martha, Malinda, and Rebecca. Lucy, another daughter of Hananiah, married Jonathan Hills in Hardin County, Kentucky on October 4, 1817. The children of Lucy Lincoln Hills were William Jeffries, Sarah, John, Margaret, Lena, James, Charles, Elizabeth, Mary Priscilla, Malvina, Eliza Rebecca, Lucy Jane, and Martha.

Most of the Lincolns in the western country today trace their ancestry to Hananiah. A large branch of the family now reside in Texas.

Descendants of the pioneer Hananiah Lincoln who live in or near the Cumberland country claim that Hananiah and his wife were both buried just across the line in Tennessee and that up to 1860 their burial places were known.

MORDECAI, SON OF JOHN

Mordecai Lincoln of Greenville, Tennessee was a son of John Lincoln, brother of the President's grandfather, Abraham Lincoln. He was

born on November 7, 1788 at Linville in Rockingham County, Virginia. While still a young man he went to Hardy County now in West Virginia.

The first wife of Mordecai was Clara Paul, daughter of William and Catherine (See) Paul of Hardy County. She died shortly after the birth of their second child. The infant boy named John Craigin Lincoln was taken to the home of his grandfather, John Lincoln. Mordecai with his three year old daughter Paulina on the saddle with him journeyed to Carter County, Tennessee to visit uncle Isaac Lincoln.

The beauty of the Watauga Valley so pleased Mordecai that he decided to settle there, and he purchased "Fish Spring Farm" on Stony Creek. This was about the year 1815.

On January 26, 1822 Mordecai acquired an acre of ground in Greenville, Tennessee. Here he also purchased an interest in the leading store, though still retaining his mountain home of Fish Spring.

The two children of Mordecai Lincoln by his first wife, Clara Paul Lincoln, both married and had families.

Paulina Emily Lincoln, Mordecai's oldest child by his first wife, married in 1828 at Hagerstown, Maryland, William Dinges, a widower of Front Royal, Virginia. There were four children born to the Dinges: William Mordecai, born January 22, 1829, who married Amanda Faucher; Isaac Henry, born 1831 who died in 1855 unmarried; Emily O'Neal, born September 1834 who married first Marion Simrill, then Charles Neal,

and finally Edward Turner; and David Washington Dinges, born July 2, 1836, who married Nora Crutchfield.

By her second husband, Milton B. Gross of Sullivan County, Tennessee, whom she married in 1838 there were six children. Two daughters died in infancy; Jesse Lincoln Gross, born January 8, 1839, married first Julia Seahorn and then Melvina Wallace; Hugh Lawrence Gross, born January 28, 1842, married Mrs. Fanny Boone Paschall; Thomas Montgomery Gross, born May 11, 1844; and Ann Eliza, born March 5, 1849, married Joseph Malcolm Carnes.

The only son of Mordecai Lincoln by his first wife was John Craigin Lincoln. He was brought up, until fifteen years of age, by his grandfather John Lincoln who had moved from Rockingham County, Virginia to Lebanon, Ohio. After taking up his residence with his father at Greenville, Tennessee, he married on December 7, 1837 at Sparta, Tennessee Jane Usrey, daughter of William and Melinda Usrey.

Their first child, William Henry Lincoln, was born February 5, 1840 at Eagle Furnace, Tennessee. He became a merchant at Alexandria in Smith County, Tennessee where he died June 10, 1910. By his marriage to Lee Moore, daughter of George and Emma Moore there were two children, the youngest, William, dying in infancy. Mattie Joe Lincoln, the other child, married Campbell Oliver of Smith County. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver had two children, Willie Lee who married Frank Roy and Annette Stanton who married Maj. Morgan.

William Henry Lincoln took for his second wife Mrs. Alameda Daugherty Kennedy of Cannon County, Tennessee. One child named Abraham died in childhood and a daughter Gussie Lou, born May 10, 1889, married William Murphy.

Lewis Craigin Lincoln, the youngest child of John Craigin Lincoln, was born May 10, 1845 at Memphis. He practiced law at Alexandria, Tennessee and later moved to Conway, Arkansas. Here he married Effie Martin, daughter of J. E. and Esther Martin. The children born to them at Conway were Jesse Hampton Lincoln and Roberta Alice Lincoln.

At Knoxville, Tennessee Mordecai was married a second time. Sophia Williams Heiskell, daughter of Frederick and Katherine Heiskell of Rockbridge County, Virginia became his wife. To this union four children, all daughters, were born: Catherine M., Sarah Amelia, Louisa Ann, and Mary Sophia.

Sarah Amelia, born February 11, 1825, married on June 1, 1841 at Greenville, William Barton, a physician. They had but one child, Mordecai Lincoln, born May 1, 1842, who married first Etta Baird and then Sarah DeBow.

Catherine and Louisa Ann both died in early childhood. The former

was born on December 18, 1819 and died September 20, 1825; the latter was born February 1829 and died June 11, 1839.

Mary Sophia, the youngest child, was born March 3, 1833 and on February 14, 1852 married at Greenville, William Ramsey Brown, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Brown. Their first child, Augusta Lincoln Brown, was born February 23, 1853 and died July 22, 1938. Sophia Bettie Brown was born October 30, 1854 and still lives (1939) in Greenville, Tennessee. William Heiskell Brown was born December 7, 1857 and died in 1925. No one of these first three children ever married. Mary Gertrude Brown was born September 12, 1864 and married David Wilds, but no children were born to this union. Mrs. Wilds still lives in Greenville (1939). After Mary Sophia Brown's death on June 6, 1867 her husband married Mrs. Mary Johnson Stover, widow of Daniel Stover and the youngest daughter of President Andrew Johnson.

It is not known whether there are descendants of Mordecai, son of John, still living. As late as 1816 there was but one male descendant bearing the name Lincoln. It was Jesse Hampton Lincoln who at that time was thirty years old and unmarried.